

BARBARA KOWA

The international artist and actress was born into the world of fine art as the daughter of the curator and art historian Wieland Schmied.

Seeking distance and identity, she initially focused primarily on theater acting (with studies at the renowned Ernst Busch Academy of Performing Arts in Berlin and engagements at the Renaissance Theater Berlin and others), got interested in video and film production (studies at the BAF Bavarian Academy for Film, filming and producing artistic movies, like the award-winning DREAMING MALI) before she completely devoted herself to the liberty and risk of fine art in a performance that is deeply influenced by her interest and education in art history - and theater

Kowa discovers the essentials through the process of live-art with its embodiment in space and time, and prefers to work in cycles that offer her a continuity of inner debate- within artistic freedom.

In 2013 she founded ACT.ART.OUT., a performance theater, with SEVEN SEALS, an epic co-creative performance journey, a participative theater for all senses, that she realized 7 times in Berlin (Uferhallen, art.endant) with changing artists from different media, before she went on tour with all the collected ideas to realize SEVEN SEALS in different places all over the world after short introductory workshops, for the next 7 performances of this ongoing project. She is fully focusing on the different aspects of live-art and performance art ever since. Interpreting all aspects of life as artistic, but also searching for radical experiences in long durationals that became her special love, this resulted in pieces like the 7 weeks gallery performance THE CALCULATING MIND CANNOT BE TRUSTED in the Luisa Cattuci gallery in 2018.

Barbara Kowa's main interest is live-art-performance, process, co-creative and site-specific work, so exhibitions have never been her main focus.

But to show how individual performances of a cycle that might go on for a dozen years like UNTIL DEATH DO US PART did, are relating, she is using collage, drawing, painting and video as a form of mapping.

Barbara Kowa is member of APAB Association of Performance Artists Berlin, and part of the artists collective ACTION HYBRID Paris, as well collaborating with the international performance project TRANSITSTATION.